



Children and Youth Ministry Report 2018-2019

YOUTH Ministry PROGRAM

A year of youth leadership design, engaging in spiritual practices, **Educational Program Offerings** as well as serving Diocesan children and youth in their faith formation we have offered the following Programs.

The Youth Committee as a part of the cross generational team of the Stevenson School for ministry Advisory Board work together to offer innovative initiatives that include for the first time in the history of the Diocese a program for children during our Diocesan Convention.

Post 2018 Convention:

From November 16 – 18, 2018, we had a great weekend at Camp Mount Luther for our Winter Retreat. We had 22 new middle school youth attend from congregations in Lancaster, Harrisburg, Northern Tier, and West Branch convocations. The theme was “The Way of Love”. We had video talks from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and our own Bishop Audrey Scanlan. We had talks for each of the 7 points from “The Way of Love” presented by the adults that attended the retreat. After each talk, we broke into small groups and discussed ways we can work to make changes in our lives. We did various activities during the weekend. The youth had a great weekend at the retreat.

2019

January Happening planning meeting was a quick meeting held at St. John’s Carlisle. Planning meetings include; Teen talks, roles and responsibilities during the retreat, preparation activity work: Welcoming activities, structure of Caritas and engaging the Young Adults as the Celebration Staff. The youth got the work done in record time because we had to beat a snow storm that was starting on Sat. PM. We had a great planning and team-building weekend with the youth. We finalized all the plans for the Happening #12 weekend and all got home safe before the snowstorm of 2019 started.

On February 14 – 18, 2019 a group of youth, Young Adults and Adults from our diocese met at Camp Mount Luther for a weekend called Happening. The Happening “Experience” is a powerful instrument of Christian Renewal. During the three-day retreat, the participants listened to talks given by teenagers and adults. The presentation of the talks by youth using personal life experiences to offer Christ’s message to attending Happeners on a level they can understand and to answer many of the faith questions youth struggle with on a daily basis. Talks about church teachings and their importance in the lives of youth attending the weekend were given. Each talk is a critical building block in the creation of the Happening message. The entire series of talks is given in a sequence that is intended to guide Happeners by opening an avenue of discussions to help them verbalize and internalize their faith questions in a safe environment, hopefully leading to a new or renewed relationship with Christ. Tierza Mendez served as Rector and Ryan Couch as Assistant Rector. All the talks were amazing and very powerful that were given. It was a wonderful weekend for all who attended. The youth learned how powerful prayer can be and sharing in many “God Moments”.

We had sixteen Young Adults as part of the Celebration Team #2. This is the second year we had a curriculum for the weekend and everyone enjoyed the weekend. We had Karen



DiPace cook and prepare all of the meals over the weekend. The Young Adults stopped each hour during the weekend and would pray for the Happeners and Happening staff. We ended the weekend with a wonderful closing Eucharist with everyone by our youth rector, Our Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, and Rev. Canon Ken Wagner-Pizza, and The Rev. Regina Barrett.

New Beginnings #2 was held April 5 – 7, 2019 at Camp Mount Luther. New Beginnings is a unique ministry that shares the love of Christ with middle school-aged youth of today. “New Beginnings” had 21 middle schoolers attend to be present to hear the voice of middle schoolers, and their challenges to be positive about themselves, their friends, families and their communities, in a critical time in their lives. This ministry reminds them that we are all children of God, we are special, we are loved, and there is nothing that we cannot overcome with Christ.

Kyler Hammall Torres and Brittanie Betteley were the Rectors for New Beginnings. Our Young Adults and Sr. High Youth led the retreat with assistance from the adults. They gave wonderful talks on self, families, friends, peer pressure and many other topics. We had a great turn out of Jr. high youth and they seemed to enjoy the weekend. They grew spiritually with without realizing it. Many new friendships were formed and old ones reunited. The talent show was lots of fun with some amazing talents, and everyone had a wonderful time.

August 24th This year we did something new to get families to see Camp Mount Luther hoping to get more youth involved with the Diocesan youth program. We had a day planned at CML with our amazing Bishop Audrey Scanlan for a fun youth and family day on Saturday, August 24. We enjoyed a day together doing get to know you games, having a creative bible study, followed by some challenging ropes courses, and a hike. We all gathered together for a closing Eucharist. It was a fun day for everyone.

2019 diocesan youth leadership training, holding one gathering in April and a second gathering in October. We share ideas, resources, concerns as well as dealing with the challenges of communication to youth ministry in our over scheduled world. We are also beginning our preparation for EYE 20

Mary Ellen Kilp, chair of the Diocesan Youth Committee attended the Diocesan Youth Leaders Gathering September 16 – 19, 2019 in Denver Colorado. It is a group of Diocesan youth leaders that connect leaders whose primary responsibility is to youth ministry at the diocesan level. Information was shared about how to build connections with clergy, Marijuana and vaping policies, and social media policies, sustaining change after the energy of the moment and event are over. There was a lot of talking on how to train adult youth ministers, young adult engagement and ministry, and much more. It was a fantastic weekend of sharing. We closed with a beautiful healing service for all that attended the event.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

GODLY PLAY Training for Teachers and Parents Godly Play is ideal for those parents, teachers, and congregations who are looking for ways to support children 3-9 in their spiritual formation



To serve Parishes with Teachers of Godly Play in Central PA:

St. Andrews Shippensburg <http://www.standrewsshippensburg.org/tag/godly-play/>

St. Andrew's State College <http://standrewsc.org/education/childrens-programs/>

St. Andrew's York

St. Stephen's Cathedral <http://www.ststep.org/worship/families-with-children/>

St. James Lancaster <https://www.saintjameslancaster.org/children-youth-families/children/godly-play/>

Church of Nativity, St. Stephen's
<http://nativityandststephen.diocpa.org/godly-play.html>

St. Luke's Mt. Joy



We held three 2019 Core Trainings at St. Luke's Lebanon with 11 new teachers being trained Dates for the training:

April 7th

June 8th

November 1st

2019 Marks the Second Children's program during convention with intentional focus on integrating children into convention worship.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Ellen Kilp and Robyn Szoke-Coolidge